

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 09916 200438Z

12

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 200414Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6148

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN 0586

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9916

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT TO JAPAN

1. SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROMULO SOUNDED ME OUT ON AUGUST 17 ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT FORD MIGHT EXTEND HIS ANNOUNCED JAPAN VISIT TO INCLUDE THE PHILIPPINES. HE ASKED IF I WOULD INQUIRE FROM WASHINGTON WHETHER AN INVITATION WOULD BE WELCOME.

2. I TOLD ROMULO THAT THE VISIT TO JAPAN WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED AS A SOLITAIRE IN ORDER TO REDRESS JAPANESE "SHOKU" SENSITIVITIES, AND THAT THE GESTURE WOULD CLEARLY BE DIMINISHED IF THE TRIP WERE EXTENDED ELSEWHERE. MOREOVER, I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD OVERFLY TAIPEI, IGNORE JAKARTA, AND OTHERWISE AVOID TURNING THE TRIP INTO A GRAND TOUR IF HE WERE TO CONTEMPLATE A MANILA VISIT.

3. ROMULO SEEMED APPEASED BY THESE OBSERVATIONS, AND DID NOT RPT NOT PRESS ME FURTHER. HOWEVER, I REPORT THE CONVERSATION BECUASE PAST PERFORMANCE INDICATES THAT OUR IRREPRESSIBLE LITTLE FRIEND MAY TRY AGAIN WHILE AT THE UNGA OR ELSEWHERE. SULLIVAN

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NNN

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Disposition Authority: boyleja
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